NEWS — 2026 TOWN ELECTIONS

Michelle Bergstrom steps away from Winchester School Committee to focus on full-time teaching

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

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Michelle Bergstrom, a nine-year member of the Winchester School Committee, announced she will not seek re-election to focus on her return to full-time elementary classroom teaching. WINCHESTER NEWS FILE PHOTO

Michelle Bergstrom, a nine-year member of the Winchester Sch Committee, announced she will not seek re-election, citing her return to

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full-time elementary classroom teaching as the reason for stepping down.

"At my core, I am an educator. I have returned full time to the elementary classroom, a decision that feels both joyful and deeply meaningful," Bergstrom said in a statement provided to Winchester News. "There is no more important work than investing in our children and their futures, and this next chapter requires my full professional attention."

Bergstrom, an elementary educator, was first elected in 2017 and served three consecutive three-year terms. She held leadership roles, including chair and vice chair of the committee, and chaired the Budget Subcommittee and Curriculum Subcommittee.

"When I first ran for office, I was the parent of young children and taking time away from the classroom, bringing both my professional experience and my perspective as a caregiver to the work," Bergstrom said. "I ran with a deep belief in the power of public education to serve every student, regardless of background or need."

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During her tenure, the district supported full-time kindergarten aides and conducted a district-wide literacy study, according to Bergstrom's statement. She also advocated for math specialists at the elementary level and encouraged the pilot of performance-based assessments.

On facilities, her tenure overlapped with a School Committee that oversaw construction of the new Lynch School and advanced MSBA participation for a new Muraco School.

Bergstrom's statement also cited the committee's support for late start times, policies affirming LGBTQ+ students, the retirement of Sachem mascot in favor of the Red & Black and revitalization of the Special

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Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). She served twice as a negotiator for Unit A teachers' union contracts.

"During the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee worked to provide stability and support for students, families, and staff while navigating rapidly changing conditions," Bergstrom said.

Beyond the committee, Bergstrom served on the Winchester Committee on Community Preservation and was recommended for the Housing Partnership Board.

"While my role is changing, my commitment to Winchester's schools is not," Bergstrom said. "I look forward to staying involved in our community and continuing to advocate for strong, inclusive public schools that meet the needs of all learners."

Bergstrom's departure leaves one open seat on the School Committee in the March 21 town election. Two candidates are running for the three-year term: John Bellaire and Heather von Mering.

A School Committee debate between Bellaire and von Mering is scheduled for March 5 at the Jenks Center, 109 Skillings Road, from 6:45 to 8 p.m.

Will Dowd is a Massachusetts journalist who covers municipal government and community life for Winchester News. He runs The Marblehead Independent, a reader-funded digital newsroom.

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Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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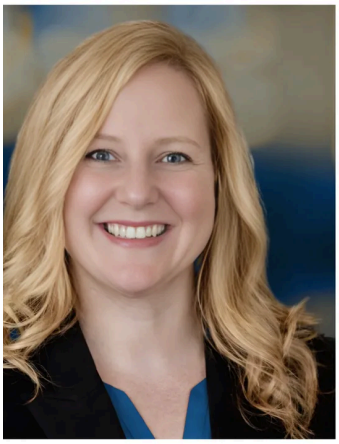

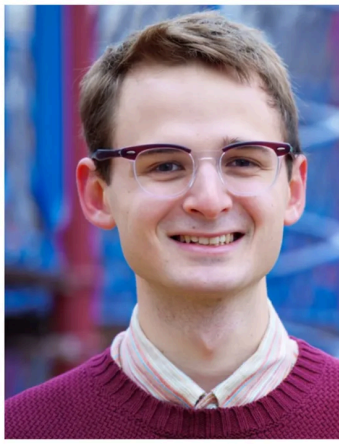

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‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

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March 4, 2026

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Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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